

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 10170 291548Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5633

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T CAIRO 10170

EXDIS

E.O.; 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, US, EG, MPOL

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN CONCERN OVER LIBYAN INTENTION

REF: STATE 184240

1. WITH FAHMY STILL IN ALEXANDRIA, I ASKED MINSTATE MUHAMMED RIAD IF EGYPTIANS HAVE ANY INDICATION OF LIBYAN PLANS FOR HOSTILE ACTIVITIES AGAINST TUNISIA IN NEAR

FUTURE. RIAD SAID TUNISIANS HAVE EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN TO GOE ABOUT LIBYAN INTENTIONS. FOR THIS REASON, EGYPTIAN NAVY IS EXPEDITING ARRIVAL OF TWO FRIGATES TO TUNIS. GOE DOES NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT LIBYA INTNDS OVERT MILITARY ACTIONGM INSTEAD, LIBYANS WILL DOUBTLSS RESORT TO EXTENSIVE SUBVERSION. RIAD INDICATED HE WOULD INQUIRE OF FAHMY IF LATTER HAS ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

2. IN MEETING TODAY WITH DEPITY PRIMIN/MINWAR GAMASY, HE ALSO REFERRED TO GOE'S ACTION IN ADVANCING THE DATES OF THE VISIT ON TWO EGYPTIAN SHIPS TO TUNIS. THEY WILL NOW ARRIVE ON AUGUST 2. TUNISIAN HAVE ALSO ASKED WHETHER EGYPTIAN MILITARY MIGHT TRAIN SOME OF THEIR OFFICERS HERE. EGYPTIAN RESPONSE INDICATED SUCH OFFICERS ARE WELCOME, OUT GOE NEEDS TO KNOW WHAT KINDS OF ARMS TRAINING IS WANTED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 10170 291548Z

ON. IF THEY ARE ON AMERICAN, FRENCH OR BRITISH WEAPONS,

EGYPTIAN MILITARY DOES NOT HAVE SUCH WEAPONS AND IS LIMITED IN WHAT IT CAN DO. GAMASY SHARES THE VIEW THAT LIBYA WILL NOT RESORT TO OVERT MILITARY ACTION, BUT WILL CONDUCT SABOTAGE AND SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS. IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE, HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEND

SOME EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE UNITS TO TUNIS, BUT DOUBTS THAT GOT WOULD AGREE.

3. I TOLD BOTH RIAD AND GAMASY OF OUR ACTION IN MOVING UP THE VISITS OF TWO US NAVAL VESSELS AND THAT WE ARE LOOKING AT ADDITIONAL THINGS WE CAN DO TO SUPPORT TUNISIA.
EILT

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